

DRAFT HABITAT WORK SCHEDULE WORKSHOP

AUGUST 23, Pierce County Environmental Services Building

The Salmon Recovery Act of 1998 (HB2496) establishes that Lead Entities working on salmon recovery should have the responsibility of creating a Habitat Work Schedule, which is intended to document all projects developed by the lead entity, as well as “identify and coordinate with any other salmon habitat project implemented in the region” (RCW 77.85.060). The Act states that a Habitat Work Schedule should, at a minimum, “include the start date, duration, estimated date of completion, estimated cost, and, if appropriate, the affected salmonid species of each project” (ibid.). Little guidance has been given to Lead Entities, however, regarding interpretation of this legislation to produce a useable, useful document.

The Habitat Work Schedule is one of the deliverables for the operational contract each Lead Entity holds with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. WDFW’s intent is that a comprehensive Habitat Work Schedule serve in three key capacities: 1) As a clear catalog of completed projects and past accomplishments; 2) As a resource of prioritized projects for future sponsors; 3) As an invaluable tool for connecting funding to particular projects (especially nearshore restoration and mitigation funding). Thus far, Lead Entities have worked towards producing practical, useful Habitat Work Schedules in a variety of ways. The scope and amount of data in the schedule has manifested itself in methods ranging from simple spreadsheets to more complex databases tied to GIS software. As Regional Salmon Recovery Plans are finalized, Watershed Plans adopted, and Lead Entity strategies become more refined, habitat work schedules will prove to be an even more important tool for implementation.

The purpose of this workshop is to work together to provide local groups with the necessary tools for creating a useful, comprehensive Habitat Work Schedule. We will examine examples of Work Schedules already in process, discuss ideas for working collaboratively with related local groups, and help pinpoint strategies for successful local- and state-level utilization. (Please see agenda, attached.) We look forward to working with you on the implementation of salmon recovery and watershed health.

AGENDA

9:30 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

10:00 HABITAT WORK SCHEDULES- Tim Smith, WDFW

- What are they?
- Why are they important?
- What makes a good one?
- What data and format is appropriate and necessary for state users?
- What data and format is appropriate and necessary for local groups?

11:15 CASE STUDY #1

11:45 CASE STUDY #2

12:15 LUNCH

1:00 CASE STUDY #3

1:30 CASE STUDY #4

2:00 NEXT STEPS

- What can the state do to facilitate the development and maintenance of valuable habitat work schedules?
- What do you need from the state?
- What is the appropriate role for Lead Entities in managing salmon and watershed project/action lists?

3:30 WRAP UP & ADJOURN